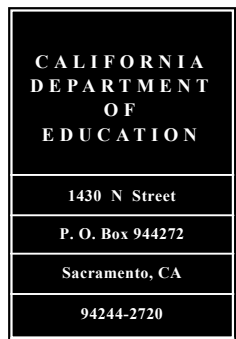




DELAINÉ EASTIN
State Superintendent of Public Instruction



October 21, 2002

To: County and District Superintendents
Attention: Directors of Alternative Education

From: Mary Tobias Weaver
Assistant Superintendent/Division Director
Education Support Systems Division
Education Equity, Access and Support Branch

Subject: Opportunity Education for Grades Seven through Nine

Attached are guidelines and reimbursement forms for Opportunity Education schools, programs, and classes in grades seven through nine for fiscal year 2001-02. The guidelines include sections describing (1) the unique needs of middle grade students, and (2) recommendations for class size, curriculum, counseling, and placement of students in Opportunity Education.

Districts may receive incentive funding to provide Opportunity Education for identified students in grades seven through nine, pursuant to *Education Code* sections 48630 and 48644.5. These funds help districts to recover some of the costs related to the educational interventions and guidance services designed to effect positive changes in student behavior through a specialized and structured learning environment.

If your district or county office offers Opportunity Education programs or classes, please forward the attached guidelines to the appropriate project director or coordinator. For questions regarding the **program** guidelines, please contact Jacie Ragland in the Educational Options Office at (916) 323-2568, fax (916) 323-2039. For assistance with the **reimbursement calculations** please contact Daphne Kelley in the School Fiscal Services Division at (916) 324-6178, fax (916) 323-0196.

The California Department of Education must receive reimbursement forms on or before December 31, 2002 in order to assure prompt allocation of available funds. Requests for reimbursements received after that date will be delayed until the following year's apportionment.

Please complete and return the following forms, **Part A: 2001-02 Opportunity Education Program Information, Part B: 2001-02 Fiscal Information, Part A: Budget Report, and Part A: Opportunity School List** to the following address by December 31, 2002:

**California Department of Education
School Fiscal Services Division
1430 N Street, Suite 3800
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn: Daphne Kelley**